

9th DEH Inter-University Student Conference and
Cultural Competition 2023

GENDER: THE BINARY AND BEYOND

Organized by
Department of English and Humanities

October 19-20, 2023



Message from the Resident Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bangladesh



It is with great excitement that I see such thought-provoking events like this conference on “Gender: The Binary and Beyond”, which examines the manifold gender identities and how the young generation is making strides in building a more inclusive society. I regard this event as a testament to ULAB’s commitment to fostering intellectual discussions through language, literature and culture, especially in our rapidly shifting world.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Bangladesh also aims to bring together marginalised groups, including gender diverse ones, but also to familiarise ourselves with different gender orientations and identities, break our own misconceptions for us as FES but also with our partners. We intend to go up to their level to empathise and understand their way of life, their everyday struggles and opportunities. For example, our programmes on labour rights educate partners and participants on gender justice and social cohesion.

Additionally, FES’s various research programmes have also focused on inclusion of gender diverse communities and platforms where everyone can discuss and devise solutions to societal barriers.

FES together with its partners intends to shift narratives towards a more inclusive and respectful society. The use of gender terms has been consistently discriminatory towards non-binary individuals. Therefore, this event will open the door to further debates and opportunities, often uncomfortable, often pushing boundaries. However, that is precisely what we regard as necessary for growth. So, warm wishes to the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) of ULAB from FES Bangladesh for a successful event, and we hope to see more such events in the future.

Felix Kolbitz

Message from the Vice Chancellor



It is wonderful to see that ULAB's Department of English and Humanities has organized its 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition to address gender issues in, but not limited to, literature, language, linguistics, cultural studies, communication studies, translation studies, and digital humanities. The theme aligns with the UN's sustainable development goals of reducing inequalities and gender equality, and I believe it is the young intellectuals who can contribute significantly to providing solutions for social practices that can marginalize gender minorities.

The paper presentations and cultural performances in this two-day conference will, I know, address different relevant issues, and it is amazing to know that we have the highest number of participating universities this year.

Even if no solutions are offered, the presentations will, I hope, raise awareness among the members of the audience, which can go a long way in promoting the idea of tolerance and acceptance.

As a university, our goal is to nurture our students to be responsible citizens of the world. In providing a space for young researchers and culturally active students, we hope to do our part and contribute to the growth of the nation's scholarly community.

My special thanks to Mr. Iqbal Hossain for gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. Let me express my appreciation to your organization, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, and Resident Representative, Mr. Felix Kolbitz, for endorsing ULAB's efforts through your sponsorship.

My appreciation also goes to the distinguished panel of judges who have given us their time and valuable feedback to the participants.

I wish the conference great success!

Professor Imran Rahman

Message from the Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees



I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh for creating the platform to celebrate "Gender: The Binary and Beyond." The 9th edition of the Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition, I believe, will not only promote extracurricular education but also foster cultural exchange while championing the theme of gender diversity and inclusivity.

In a world where conversations around gender and identity have never been more important, ULAB's English Department has consistently demonstrated a commitment to meaningful dialogue and understanding. This competition, now in its 9th year, continues to serve as a source of impactful engagements, bringing together minds that appreciate the depth and nuances of the theme "Gender: The Binary and Beyond."

I am genuinely impressed by this year's list of participants. I understand 20 public and private universities from across Bangladesh are taking part in the academic competition, while 7 in the cultural contest. It is encouraging to see the institutions from Gopalganj, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna, and Chattogram joining us, some for the very first time. Your presence here enriches this competition and highlights the importance of regional diversity in this crucial discourse.

Judging from my previous experience, I can vouch for the intellectual vigor and academic dedication through which our young scholars will articulate their ideas on the chosen topic. The appreciation of gender will go beyond scholarly research to find its expression in the performing arts. I am happy to learn about the brand-new feature of this year's event—the Art Exhibition. This platform will showcase the remarkable talents of DEH students and alumni, captivate your senses, and add a new dimension to the event.

This contest serves as a reminder of the influence that discourse, education, and the arts have on the world we live in. It is a chance for us to reiterate our dedication to establishing a society that values diversity, inclusivity, and everyone's right to be who they truly are.

Let us also remember that it is not just a competition; it is an opportunity to make a difference by changing the world we live in. Let us engage in open and respectful dialogue, appreciate the richness of our diverse perspectives, and celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.

I want to express my gratitude to the organizing committee for their tireless efforts in putting together this remarkable event. To all the participants, I encourage you to embrace this unique opportunity for learning, growth, and friendship. To our scholars, artists, and visionaries, your contributions today will shape the conversations of tomorrow.

I am confident that this event will be a resounding success.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD

Message from the Pro Vice-Chancellor



I would like to congratulate the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) for organizing the 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition, which takes place on October 19-20, 2023 at our beautiful and green campus. We, at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), encourage activities among learning institutions and to have students from twenty-one universities participating in our event is something we are very glad and enthusiastic about. We hope that the students would learn a lot and have fun as they explore the theme: Gender: The Binary and Beyond.

The theme is in line with the values and philosophy of the university. ULAB believes in and is anchored from sustainability. Sustainability cannot stand without diversity and inclusion as these are tremendous assets in improving productivity and efficiency, supporting informed decision-making, and facilitating the adoption of structural and operational changes. Understanding gender diversity and inclusion would be instrumental in the future success and endeavors of participating students.

I would like to thank all the students, teachers, and all those behind the scenes for making this conference and competition possible.

Professor Jude William R. Genilo

Message from the Dean



This is the ninth of our annual student conferences showcasing youthful scholarship, creativity and thespian talent. Each year we choose a new theme, one that is both engaging and relevant to our times. The choice of “Gender: The Binary and Beyond” is both timely and controversial, and it is imperative that we do not shy away from engaging critically and creatively with it. For long, the theme has been seen primarily in relation to the Feminist movement, but suddenly in the West it has sparked intense debates over new attitudes and practices that defy certain fundamental notions. I will not delve into them here, but I hope the participants in the conference will do so with intelligence and critical understanding.

We are delighted with the response from our peer universities, and extend a warm welcome to all participants. Twenty universities, including ones from Gopalganj, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna, and Chattogram, have registered for the academic presentations; and seven have sent teams to take part in the cultural performances. For the first time we have organized a special art exhibition featuring work by DEH students and alumni. We hope this will add a colorful dimension to the event. I have no doubt that this unique intellectual and cultural agon will help students improve their skills and become more mature personalities. I hope it will also facilitate informal exchanges among students of different institutions and foster bonhomie and camaraderie. This is the greatest prize that the conference offers, and it is one that everyone who takes part will share.

Professor Kaiser Haq, PhD

Message from the Head of Department



I am proud to welcome you to the 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition organized by the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB. This year's conference focuses on "Gender: The Binary and Beyond." The theme was chosen to bring to light the complexities that ideas of gender often generate within our communities and may impact certain groups of people unfairly.

The growing number of universities participating in this year's conference is testament both to the importance of the theme we have selected as well as to the impact that this conference has had among the young scholars' community in universities across the country. This year, we have the highest number of participants in the history of this conference, some of whom are participating for the first time. I believe it is also evidence of students' growing awareness of the world around them and their place in it.

My gratitude to all the participants, the faculty members who have guided them, and their respective institutions for being a part of our endeavor. At ULAB, we strive to ensure that our students have a platform to showcase their intellectual and creative talents. We want to offer others the same opportunities because we believe in a culture of knowledge sharing and mutual cooperation. As conflicts abound, it has become all the more important to create an environment of peace and support. And I am glad that the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB has been doing its part through this conference to help build networks that have strengthened our academic community with a view to addressing the social ills around us.

This year, we have added a new dimension to the conference: an art exhibition, based on the theme, to showcase the student and alumni talents we have at the Department of English and Humanities. Although this is not part of the competition this year, we may, in the future, think about including it and open it up to students from other universities as well.

My heartfelt thanks to the judges who have given so much time and effort to ensure a fair and transparent adjudication process. Their constructive feedback is the backbone of the students' development.

My gratitude to our sponsor, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, and Mr. Felix Kolbitz, Resident Representative, for their generosity and for believing in us. Thank you for being here to support our efforts.

I am extremely grateful to the wonderful faculty, admin, and student team at the Department who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the conference is executed smoothly. The administrative staff, the Communications Office, and the IT Office at ULAB, too, deserve our profound gratitude for being a constant support system. None of this would be possible without their help.

I wish the conference great success!

Arifa Ghani Rahman

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GENDER: THE BINARY AND BEYOND

October 19–20, 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH (ULAB)

ULAB is the only private university in Bangladesh that pursues liberal arts, critical thinking and sustainable development as its core principles. ULAB is ranked 27th for Crisis Management, 28th for Entrepreneurial Spirit, 39th for Ethical Value, and in the Top 100 Global Innovative Universities by World University with Global Impact (WURI), 2021. ULAB is also ranked by Times Higher Education 2021 as the 4th among Bangladeshi universities, and 156th for SDG 17 among 1115 universities worldwide. ULAB is an institution with a difference.

Vision

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh will be the best university in Bangladesh and a leader in South Asia.

Mission

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh is an institution devoted to developing young minds to their fullest potential through the free and creative pursuit of knowledge. We are firmly committed to helping young men and women to become responsible and caring citizens of their nations and the world.

We fulfill these aims by adopting an array of traditional and innovative academic and extra-curricular programs, and by bringing to our students the best that has been thought and accomplished in the arts and sciences throughout the world.

Values

ULAB's core values are the standards that drive our culture, guide our conduct, and set the minimum expectations for everyone at ULAB.

- Love of Lifelong Learning
- Practicing Integrity and Leadership
- Encouraging Innovation
- Promoting Tolerance
- The Pursuit of Excellence

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) is a flagship entity of ULAB. Over the last few years, it has proved itself as “the Number One English Department” in the country, offering relevant courses with the most updated curricula; responding to the market needs and thereby incorporating applied linguistics, cultural studies, creative writing, translation studies in its literary program; bringing together highly accomplished faculty members who all have overseas degrees; introducing mentor-mentee relationships; and opting for blended learning.

DEH has become an intellectual hub where fresh ideas are fostered. The inter-university academic and cultural contest is a case in point. For six years in a row, we have been holding students’ academic paper competition to encourage our budding researchers to be critically engaged with a given topic. The performative aspect is adjudged through a cultural contest. The event has been a great platform to erase the public/private dichotomy and dispel some of the fixed ideas that we sometimes maintain in academia. This is our 9th year.



Faculty members of the Department of English and Humanities

Vision of the Department of English and Humanities

To become one of the leading English departments of the region by broadening knowledge and by instilling the required skill set in students using a humanist and liberal arts approach.

Mission

Consistent with the University's commitment to liberal arts, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) employs an interdisciplinary approach to foster lifelong learning and critical thinking to make students knowledgeable and ethically engaged citizens, enabling them to respond creatively and flexibly to the challenges of a diverse and changing world. It equips students with the communicative and analytical skills needed for employment in both public and private sectors or for higher studies.

DEH offers courses that survey different literary periods and genres through theoretical, philosophical, cultural, and pedagogical lenses to understand language, linguistic, and literary texts. The courses also focus on developing theoretical, philosophical, and intellectual abilities. There is an overall emphasis on pursuing new avenues of research.

Statement of Identity

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB is a forward-looking and globally connected academic platform offering both BA in English and MA in English degrees. In recent years, DEH has established its niche as the most 'happening' place for international and national academic and cultural activities. Our curriculum is designed to give students a solid foundation for building critical and cultural awareness as well as to open unfamiliar worlds and exciting new ways of thinking about humanities. We believe not only in developing students' basic communication skills in the lingua franca of the world, but also in other key areas necessary to intellectual and professional advancement: humanistic content, analysis, argumentation, rhetoric, stylistics, and so on. These broad offerings to all students make the department one of the major nodal points in the University's Liberal Arts curriculum.

The Department's courses are not confined to traditional disciplinary boundaries, but are open to inter- and cross- disciplinary offerings. This dynamic approach allows students to develop skills and sensibilities vitally required by modern English language and literature teachers and by people across professional fields: communications and media, business and marketing, and so on.

We are committed to our holistic vision to impart an education to students which combines language skills with literary sensibilities so that graduates become competent and responsible citizens of the world.

Objectives of the Program

- To impart language skills and develop literary sensibilities so that graduates become intellectually competent and responsible citizens of the world To help students acquire the required professional skills and mindset that will be valuable for a wide range of careers in such fields as teaching, publishing, media, entrepreneurship, civil service, government and private sectors, as well as for higher studies.
- To provide appropriate academic and infrastructural support (class size, classrooms, resources, and technology) for better student retention, progress, and academic success
- To expose students to real-life work environments through apprenticeships/internships, in-house jobs, and mentorship programs
- To offer avenues for publication through the student magazine, MUSE, and the department's peer-reviewed journal, Crossings
- To support and facilitate faculty research and professional development, and encourage greater participation in professional activities



Volunteers and performers with faculty members: 7th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition

9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition

GENDER: THE BINARY AND BEYOND

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The Theme

Be it Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, who changes gender multiple times to challenge the heterosexual matrix, or Jeanette Winterson's *Written on the Body*, where the gender of the narrator is never revealed, or Akwaeke Emezi's *Freshwater*, which explores the experience of living with multiple identities, gender intersects with identity and existence. The 9th DEH Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition 2023 seeks to explore the complex ways in which gender is constructed, performed, and represented in language, literature, and cultural studies. Submissions may explore questions such as what effects concealed genders have on the reader's interpretation of stories, or how literature, language, and culture contribute to our understanding of the lived experiences of individuals with multiple gender identities, etc. From analyzing the use of non-binary pronouns in social media and popular culture, to investigating how gender is constructed and negotiated in different contexts, such as education, politics, and the workplace, we seek to explore gender from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, as well as through interdisciplinary approaches that draw on multiple viewpoints including the power dynamics and gendered communication in literature and everyday discourse.

It is in this context that the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) invites students of BA and MA in English to explore "Gender: The Binary and Beyond" within topics in literature, language, linguistics, cultural studies, communication studies, translation studies, and digital humanities.

About the Conference

ULAB is the only university in Bangladesh that has been consistently organizing a conference where students conduct research on particular themes, usually marking specific literary anniversaries or issues of real world significance, and present their ideas before an independent panel of judges. The academic session acts as a congenial space for students from different universities to network and create connectivity.

The Cultural Competition gives students the opportunity to present their interpretations of the given theme in creative ways, encouraging teamwork, leadership skills, and friendly competition.

The 2023 Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition seeks to explore the complex ways in which gender is constructed, performed, and represented in language, literature, and cultural studies.



About the Participants

Typically, the DEH Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition attracts participants from public and private universities all around the country.

The total number of universities participating this year is 20, with several universities participating for the first time. This shows the impact the Student Conference has had nation-wide.

All the abstracts submitted by the student participants are published on the department's website and in this brochure.

The number of participating universities for the Cultural Competition is 7.

The participants:

Below is the full list of the participating universities. Some are presenting papers, while others are participating in both segments of the Conference.

1. American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB), Dhaka
2. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU), Gopalganj
3. Bangladesh Army University of Engineering & Technology (BAUET), Rajshahi
4. Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), Dhaka
5. BRAC University (BRACU), Dhaka
6. Central Women's University (CWU), Dhaka
7. Eastern University (EU), Dhaka
8. Green University of Bangladesh (GUB), Dhaka
9. Institute of Modern Languages, DU (IML, DU), Dhaka
10. International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Dhaka
11. Jahangirnagar University (JU), Dhaka
12. Khulna University (KU), Khulna
13. Manarat International University (MIU), Dhaka
14. Metropolitan University (MU), Sylhet
15. North South University (NSU), Dhaka
16. Premier University (PU), Chittagong
17. Stamford University Bangladesh, Dhaka
18. University of Chittagong (CU)
19. University of Dhaka (DU)
20. University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Dhaka

About the Judges

DEH makes an effort to ensure a neutral panel of judges. Academicians from non-participating universities are invited to assess the merit of the academic papers while cultural personalities or representatives from different cultural centers assess the performances.

Academic Presentations

The judges for the Academic Presentation segment of the Conference are:

Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan, Professor, Dept. of English and Modern Languages, and Executive Director, Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellences, Independent University, Bangladesh

Dr. Farzana Akhter, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, and Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, East West University

Cultural Presentations

The judges for the Cultural Competition segment of the Conference are:

Mr. Abdus Selim, Associate Professor, Dept. of Language-Literature, Central Women's University

Dr. Hafiza Nilofar Khan, Associate Professor, Dept. of English and Modern Languages, Independent University, Bangladesh

Ms. Tania Tasneem Hossain, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Jahangirnagar University



Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury presenting her paper at the 8th Conference

ABSTRACTS

Disclaimer. The abstracts have been published as submitted by the students of the participating universities. Nothing has been edited and the Conference Committee takes no responsibility for any errors in the abstracts as this is a competition.

“Whipping Girl”, by Julia Serano; A Provocative Exploration of Gender Norms and The Boundaries of Gender Identity

Afia Ujma

American International University of Bangladesh

Julia Serano’s incredible book, “Whipping Girl; A Transsexual Woman, on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity” takes us on a captivating journey into the realm of gender, transgender experiences, and feminism. This research paper will delve into Serano’s thought provoking perspective, on gender that goes beyond the stereotypical gender boundaries put forth by society. The paper would examine her arguments against undervaluing femininity in her introduction of the concept of transmisogyny and her call to challenge norms that impact transgender women. This paper is an attempt to advocate for an inclusive and empathetic understanding of gender identity based on her work.

Challenging the Gender Binary: Resistance of Ben in the Light of Judith Butler’s “Gender Performativity”

Robita Tarofder & Biploby Guha Tuktuki

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University

The dominant societal discourses of gender binary about the sexual performances of heterosexual groups bring about unendurable predicaments upon the nonbinary sexual expressions. These discourses should be challenged in order to establish the existence of diverse sexualities beyond the binary. Basically, it is the social construction of acting as male or female gender where other sexual identities can hardly exist. In the light of Judith Butler’s “Gender Performativity,” this paper presents the resistance of nonbinary in Mason Deaver’s Ben, protagonist of the novel, *I Wish You All the Best (2020)*. This discussion evaluates the deconstructionist approach of nonbinary to come out of gender construction with the theoretical focus of gender performances. These performances do not express an “innate” quality of gender, rather create gender identities. The suffering and resistance of the nonbinary people to transcend the traditional norms of gender identity have been discussed through the struggle of Ben. The endeavour of the nonbinary also threatens the authoritative imprisonment of capitalistic intentions as well. This paper explores the universal afflictions of those who do not intend to be confined within the constructed gender performance and shows the necessary resistance to flourish against the societal discourse of gender normativity.

Subverting Gender Roles in Dickens' *Great Expectations* through the Lens of Feminism

Md. Mahabubur Rahman Badhon & Sunjida Hasan

Bangladesh Army University of Engineering & Technology

Through the lens of feminism, this research paper examines how gender stereotypes are subverted in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. Focusing on the female characters of Estella, Miss Havisham, Biddy, and Molly, as they show resistance against the Victorian-era gender standards, it analyzes their portrayal in the novel according to their actions. It also investigates how these characters challenge social norms by actively contesting and renegotiating gender roles using a feminist theoretical framework. While Miss Havisham exemplifies the intricacies of a woman defying societal norms by her unusual lifestyle, Estella, for instance, challenges conventional gender roles by rejecting romantic relationships and displaying an emotionless disposition. Molly challenges the image of the ideal mother role, while Biddy stands for the prospect of female emancipation via education and intellectual interests. It highlights the ways in which these characters' actions and narratives contradict the established gender norms, revealing the restrictions and injustices placed on women in Dickens' society. It accomplishes this by drawing on feminist literary theory and in-depth textual analysis. By examining these subversions, the researchers will advance knowledge of gender dynamics and societal norms in nineteenth-century literature and emphasize the value of feminist theories in literary works and interpretations.

Woman in Disguise of Physique and Clothing: Analysis of Gender Binary in Tagore's *Chitrangada* and Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl*

Nishat Anjum Risa & Neelanti Nawsheen

Bangladesh University of Professionals

This paper examines Tagore's *Chitrangada* and Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl* which discovers two characters, one from Hindu myth and another from modern Europe, evolving and breaking the gender binary. *Chitrangada*, a one-act dance-drama, is the reiterated version of *Mahabharata* centering around the character of Chitrangada and her gender inflicted confusion while pursuing love of Arjuna. Meanwhile, *The Danish Girl* is a fictionalized version of real-life Danish painter Einar Wegener later transforming into Lili Elbe and her journey to self-discovery through altering her assigned gender which is attained at the cost of her life. As per Judith Butler's theory of Gender Construction, the characters, Chitrangada, the Prince(ss) of Manipur and Einar Wegener, established their gender roles as males through repeated actions and behaviors. Both Chitrangada and Lili refuted the traditional binary framework either by physique, clothing or actions which opposed specified convention and customs for male and female. The research is conducted by following a single approach, which is qualitative in nature. To get more comprehensive data and information for a reliable development of the research, the researches of many researchers have been keenly observed. Also, relevant books, articles, journals, movies, and other internet resources are purposefully utilized as secondary sources. Content analysis method, document analysis method, textual analysis method and thematic analysis are used to systematically analyze and evaluate data.

Denaturalized Genders in Pajtim Statovci's "Crossing": Parody of Becoming and Performance

Raina Isabela

BRAC University

The contemporary feminist and gender discourse demands the radical separation of sex and gender to challenge biological determinism and subvert gender binaries. But a predicament recognized by gender is the nature of "becoming" which Simone de Beauvoir argued to be a voluntaristic act; while Judith Butler contested that this "becoming" is "thrust" upon an individual of any gender as the body becomes a nexus of socio-cultural constraints through "performance". This paper acknowledges that personal agency and socio-cultural constructions play a fundamental role in gender identification, but it argues that the performance and parody of binary genders through appropriation and interpretation give rise to gender-fluidity. Although Pajtim Statovci's work has been primarily subjected to queer and trauma studies, *Crossing* remains vital to this study on gender since it formulates how the male "becomes" a gender through performance or parody of masculine and/or feminine attributes leading to the opposition of gender binaries. To investigate the emergence of gender-fluid identities or an amalgamation of both masculine and feminine attributes in one individual, this paper juxtaposes Beauvoir's formulation that one is not born a woman but "becomes" one, indicating that the acquirement of gender is voluntaristic; alongside, Butler's gender performativity through which one can embody a "historical idea" called woman or parody gender binaries to disclose their phantasmatic quality. This application enables us to investigate how gender-fluidity calls for the annihilation of all gender norms since Statovci's protagonist, Bujar values "uniqueness" which cannot exist in conjunction with gender. To support this proposed argument, I will analyze the pair, Agim and Tanja who act as foils to Bujar and Sandy, to establish how the latter pair exercises parody through performance to denaturalize and mobilize gender binaries by expressing their femininity without the concern of "becoming", whereas Agim and Tanja identify wholly as women trapped in an "alienated body". Consequently, this research will facilitate how the aforementioned radical separation developed by Beauvoir in the 20th century enabled the emergence of Butler's theory on gender performativity in the 21st century to question the validity of the concept of gender and promote freedom of choice and individual character.

Gender as a Malleable Form of Expression: An Exploration of *She Who Became the Sun* and *Gender Euphoria*

Sanjida Yesmin

Central Women's University

This study focuses on two fictional narratives that challenge and restructure traditional understanding of gender roles. It thoroughly inspects *She Who Became the Sun* and *Gender Euphoria*. This paper aims to show that gender is a malleable and creative form of expression; the only limit is our imagination. Human beings create all kinds of gender binary. The paper also explores how these fictional works challenge the established societal norms of immersion into the landscape of non-binary identities. *She Who Became the Sun* is a unique example depicting historical contexts to question deeply rooted gender norms. It projects two people

determined to claim their destinies on their own terms, regardless of what is fated for them. Gender is by far the most complex and multilayered theme that Parker-Chan explores in this novel. On the one hand, it discusses the traditional gender roles and the treatment of each within Mongol and Nanren societies; on the other hand, it explores individual gender identity and fluidity. The other novel is *Gender Euphoria*, wherein editor Dale collects pieces from non-cisgender writers who describe only their joyful trans or non-binary experiences. This book is about people doing small actions and grand gestures that make them feel radiantly themselves and wonderfully at peace. It embodies a powerful feeling of happiness experienced due to moving away from one's birth-assigned gender. In short, both narratives explain that we need to change our thinking process as only our changing mindset can bring peace. These narratives employ effective storytelling techniques to challenge conventional norms and extend our understanding of the fluid nature of gender in contemporary society.

Impact of Disability on the formation of Identity: A Case Study of Laura Wingfield

Marzana Binte Kamal

Eastern University

This paper explores the tension between social views on disability and the identities that people with disabilities have by analyzing the character Laura Wingfield from *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams. Social stigma and ideas of normalcy play a big role in creating a disabled person's identity. In "Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body", Lennard. J. Devis mentioned that "the 'problem' is not the person with disabilities; the problem is the way normalcy is constructed to create the "problem" of the disabled person". Stigma is a social taboo and it constitutes a special discrepancy between virtual and actual identity. There are three types of stigmas mentioned by Erving Goffman in his book, *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*: the first one is the stigma of being physically disabled, second is the stigma of the people who come from any institutions such as-mental asylum and the third one is racial stigma. Stigma creates an inferiority complex in the person who is subjected to it. They keep themselves as solitary and think themselves as worst. Thus, the worst kind of anxiety is created and they do not have courage to face people due to the fear that people will disrespect them. This paper will unearth similar predicament of Laura Wingfield, an introverted and crippled girl, from the play *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams and show the alarming effects of social stigma and enforced normalcy in the formation of her identity.

Gender Deconstruction in Ursula K. Le Guin's Gethenian Society

Kashfia Israt

Green University of Bangladesh

This paper examines Ursula K. Le Guin's seminal science fiction work, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, within the frameworks of contemporary gender and literary studies. The narrative unfolds on the icy terrain of Gethen

(Winter), inhabited by Gethenians, a distinct humanoid species displaying ambisexual characteristics. This inherent fluidity challenges established gender binaries, forming the foundational exploration of this study through feminist and queer theoretical lenses. Employing feminist theory, conventional notions of gender performance and their cultural implications are critically scrutinized. Simultaneously, utilizing queer theory, the fluidity and socially constructed aspects of gender are analysed, disrupting prevailing heteronormative constructs. Furthermore, drawing upon postcolonial theory, this paper deconstructs cultural encounters, power dynamics, and representations of 'the Other' evident in the envoy Genly Ai's interaction with the Gethenians. Complementing this analysis is an anthropological perspective, investigating the diverse cultural constructions of gender. Through a critical engagement with *The Left Hand of Darkness*, this research contributes to a multifaceted comprehension of gender beyond the binary, advancing both literary and theoretical discourses.

Gendered Language in Modern Advertisements in Bangladesh: An Investigation

Antara Ibnat Audhaya

Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka

In the golden age of information, digital marketing is an important marketing tool for businesses home and abroad to attract target customers for their products and services concurrently building brand presence and goodwill. However, the language used in digital advertisements may be problematic and gendered. The study opts for a mixed method approach for investigating gendered language in digital advertisements and the consequences of the use in power dynamics in society. The investigation aims to extensively explore the contribution of digital advertisements in shaping gender norms and perceptions in Bangladeshi society.

Representation of Women in Myths: A Feminist Study of Mahabharata and Ramayana

Sumaya Binte Delwar & Nishat Tasnim Kabbo

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology

Indian mythology, including the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*, creates fascination among people all over the world for its epic stories. Sometimes, this fascination leads to seeing patriarchy as a broad concept, which may develop the thought that women should be valued for kulinism, which includes virtues like chastity, honesty, purity, service to her husband and family, humility, and so on. So, in this patriarchal boundary, most of the time, the female mythological characters like Sita, Draupadi, and Hidimbi are depicted as passive, submissive, and secondary to the men in the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. At the same time, there are several moral lessons to be learned from these epics, but the subjugation of women is merely depicted for the purpose of portraying them as servile or demonic entities of patriarchal society. However, there are also examples of strong and powerful women in Indian mythology, such as Chandī, Durga, and Kunti. The major concern of the study is the investigation of these strong female characters, who challenge patriarchal norms and beliefs to hit the unconscious minds of women. The library research method is applied to represent the

conditions of women in Indian mythology. It is time to come back from an imaginary world to reality by exploring the exact position of women in society.

Negotiated Internalized Sexism: Exploring the Interplay of Disability and Gender Performance in Somen Chanda's "Ondho Sribilasher Onek Diner Ekdin"

Ahmed Abdullah Bin Farooqi Rayhan

Jahangirnagar University

Somen Chanda's Bangla short story "*Ondho Sribilasher Onek Diner Ekdin*" (Just Another Day in the Life of the Blind Sribilash) explores gender dynamics through the intricate interaction between Bindu, a breadwinner, and her husband, Sribilash, a blind man who looks after their children. Premised upon Parsons' "compensatory masculinity hypothesis" and Bearman, Korobov, and Throne's "internalized sexism", the present paper investigates the ways in which Bindu and Sribilash negotiate gender performances: while the "working woman" wife prefers enacting expected gender role on herself, the husband accentuates masculinity as a form of compensating for physical disability (blindness). This negotiation underscores how ingrained sexism vivifies the line dividing two ends of gender binary by perpetuating asymmetrical power relations, elucidating the minimal correlation between power dynamics and ability within a gender-oriented social framework. The convergence of Sribilash's insecurities, assertive behaviors, and visual impairment highlights the intricate blend of internalized patriarchy and disability. Sribilash's physical disability exacerbates his feelings of insecurity, inspiring forceful displays of dominance as a strategy to reclaim authority – a reaction deeply influenced by prevailing norms regarding associating power with masculinity. This interrelation of Sribilash's masculinity and disability imitates the intricate interplay between societal expectations and individual identity. In other words, physical disability shapes the manifestation of masculinity similar to the way societal norms contribute to the formation of personal identity. Conversely, Bindu, the breadwinner of the family, becomes susceptible to the repercussions of internalized patriarchy. She adheres to conventional gender expectations and silently absorbs mistreatment due to her ingrained sense of spousal and maternal duty. Here, both characters' behavioral conduct from their position in the hierarchy of gender binary aligns with their internalized beliefs, as a result of which the physically disabled Sribilash is more "capable" than the physically able Bindu in asserting control. What, however, complicates the gender scenario is the last scene in which Sribilash wants to make sex and Bindu is not interested: Sribilash tries to hit her by a stick; failed, he makes a loud wail at night, blabbering "This witch is killing me, who will save me", which alerts Bindu to the potential gathering of and gaslighting by neighbours and she "closes the door". While Bindu's submission to abuse and Sribilash's assertive display of dominance endorses the notion that masculine gender constitutes the major determinant of authoritative agency, their gendered performances do not entirely fit in the usual gender expectations. This is what this paper calls "negotiated internalized sexism". The power of control is premised upon negotiation between ableism and gender; however, this negotiation is provisional and has the potential to transcend the gender binary.

Power Dynamics, Violence, and Resistance in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Marzia Sultana & Md. Zihad Hasan

Khulna University

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini narrates the stereotypical power dynamics that posits men in dominant roles and licenses them to inflict violence on women. The Afghani women, especially Mariam and Laila poignantly endure violence in a patriarchal power structure and eventually dare to resist. Both women struggle with the enormous obligations and difficulties of raising their children in a hostile domestic and social ambience. Gradually Mariam and Laila's maternal instincts drive them to protect their children leading to acts of resistance against the oppressive power agencies that seek to control their lives. Their paths converge by violence, patriarchy, and political turmoil. This paper explores power dynamics, patriarchal violence, and the transformational power of women that led them to resistance in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The study analyses the strength of maternal love and the capacity for resistance against the forces of oppression. This is an investigation of the condition of women in the patriarchal society where women have found themselves virtually imprisoned by society's ever-present and constantly shifting rules. This analysis delves into how motherhood becomes a central theme, not only as a source of strength and resilience but also as a tool of resistance and defiance against the systemic violence perpetuated by men in positions of power. It is a qualitative research. It uses the content analysis method and theory of gender identity and motherhood of contemporary feminist psychologist and sociologist Nancy Chodorow.

The Treatment of Youth, Death & Immortality

Juiena Khatun

Manarat International University

Youth is the Nation's future leader, but they waste their time; they don't know how to use it. Death is Universal, but man is not aware of it; they want to be famous but don't prove it through work. This paper aims to discover how to progress youth, Death, and Immortality in W.B Yeats's Poem Sailing to Byzantium. This paper follows the Qualitative Method. It found the way of progress for Youth, Death, and Immortality. So This paper will be beneficial for the whole Human Society.

Agony and Surviving Battle of Women in Mahasweta Devi's *Breast Stories* and Nilima Ibrahim's *Aami Birangana Balchi*

Rohama Chowdhury

Metropolitan University, Sylhet

Mahasweta Devi's *Breast Stories* is a collection of three short stories where Devi directly criticises the position of women in decolonised India. In each story, Devi presents the 'breast' as more than an emblem of eroticism or motherhood rather, it is shown as a metaphor for the corrupted social system and a weapon of resistance.

In *Aami Birangana Balchi*, Nilima Ibrahim documents the plight of seven raped women during the 1971 war in Bangladesh and their struggle in an independent land. With reference to Devi's *Breast Stories* and Ibrahim's *Aami Birangana Balchi*, this research paper investigates how 'subaltern' women find ways to resist patriarchal dominance and the complicated socio-political situation in which the position of subaltern women is preoccupied with the sense of submission and negligence. Therefore, this paper traces Edward Said's concept of "Other" and its presence within a society as the both writers expose the status of women in a patriarchal society where women are nothing more than objects of exploitation and negligence. These women however, seek to rebuild their identities and shows 'feminist' consciousness in order to challenge dominant principles and existing oppression. On this ground, this paper showcases the sufferings of such women as well as focuses on survival strategies they follow to reconstruct their wretched identities.

Re-Examining the Colonial History of the Indian Film Industry: An Exploration of White-Coded Women in Indian Spaces

Shehreen Islam

North South University

The Indian film industry, specifically the Hindi film industry (also known as Bollywood) has been producing stories and popular character archetypes catering to the Indian audience for over a hundred years. Coming into existence during the British Raj, its ubiquitous presence has influenced the self-perception of people of South Asian heritage; apart from the blatant colorism that is prevalent in the region amongst all communities, a striking characteristic of films, like the internationally recognized *Lagaan* (2001) and *RRR* (2022), involving White or white-presenting characters reflect a sense of racial inferiority internalized by the colonized South Asian men in the ways they create cinema. They continually seek the Occident's approval by injecting white or white-coded female characters whose narrative largely revolves around validating the South Asian male protagonist's ego, either as an object of their desire or as their foil. White-coded female characters refer to characters or female actors who are descended from a biological British/European family member within their last two generations, whose physical attributes are similar to Caucasian (such as their skin complexion) which often determines the characters they embody on the big screen.

This paper examines the racial fetishization directed towards such women and characters by South Asian men in cinema and the entertainment industry as a post-colonial identity conflict and furthermore as an attempt to re-write certain aspects of history as there are adverse effects of encouraging these beliefs portrayed in popular films, which are then largely endured by South Asian women and adjacent communities.

The Help and Beyond: Investigating the Lingering Effects of Historical Racism on Current Racial Dynamics among Women

Anindita Haque Ananya

Premier University, Chittagong

This paper shows how historical racism influences current racial dynamics among women, focusing on the film *The Help* as the primary source of research. *The Help*, directed by Tate Taylor, is an adaptation of the book *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, which shows the discrimination black women (Aibileen Clark, Minnie Jackson, and Yule Mae Davis) faced daily, inflicted by white women (Hilly Holbrook, Elizabeth Leefolt) they worked for. Even though not as extreme as the 1960s, there are still instances of such racism among women today. The lingering effects of historical racism on women of the 21st century need exploring. Whether or not historical racism shapes the way women from different races interact among themselves is a question that remains unanswered. Through this research, the paper aims to analyze power dynamics, privilege, and intergroup relationships portrayed in the film to uncover insights into the complexities and significance of historical racism for contemporary interactions among women then and now. The paper reveals how historical racism continues to shape the racial dynamics among women, as evidenced by the persisting power imbalances, privilege disparities, and challenges in building genuine solidarity across racial lines in reference to *The Help*, historical research, and contemporary studies. This qualitative research follows an interdisciplinary approach containing historical research, film analysis, feminist theory, and contemporary studies.

Reimagining Gender Paradigms Through the Lenses of Begum Rokeya's *Sultana's Dream* and Greta Gerwig's "Barbie"

Rifat Tahsin Shoily & Sumaiya Meem

Stamford University Bangladesh

This research aims to rethink the default binary dynamics and society's harsh stickiness in them, saying that our societal perception isn't yet ready to explore other dimensions of gender identity and look up their potential. There's gender domination and hierarchy all over the world, which needs to be impartial toward intellectual values for the sake of societal progress. This thought gets a mention when the "Barbie" movie and "Sultana's Dream" represent alternative gender hierarchies through a feminist utopian society. Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain portrays a perfect liberal society based on love and truth in "Sultana's Dream", where women hold the power and men are restricted by household or domestic responsibilities. So this narrative clarifies what equality means. Similarly, Greta Gerwig represents toxic femininity in contemporary media in the "Barbie" movie, in which a perfect Barbie land has been presented, which reflects society's perception as well as toxic femininity through biased gender domination. This movie criticizes unrealistic beauty standards and materialistic goals for women, but the later transformation of the plastic Barbie into a human show that humanity is beyond binary restrictions. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to

demonstrate that equality doesn't mean flipping and switching the whole system, but accepting, exploring, and encouraging intellectual potential.

Woolfian Androgyny and Gender Equity in 'A Room of One's Own': Reimagining Shakespearean Femininity

Hadia Sultana & Mahmuda Khanam

University of Chittagong

The idea of androgyny posits the concept of gender that is not confined to a strict binary framework, but rather encompasses a continuum, wherein individuals have the potential to exhibit features and traits associated with both masculine and feminine spectra. Woolf's evaluation of androgyny represents a divergence from traditional conceptions of gender, thereby questioning the dichotomous interpretation of femininity and masculinity and stressing on the harmonious collaboration of both masculine and feminine characteristics. In contrast to Woolf, Shakespeare's examination of androgyny is marred by his failure to adequately address the underdeveloped and one-dimensional portrayal of female characters in his plays, hence perpetuating gender disparities in literature. Therefore, the objective is to elucidate Woolf's contention that, despite incorporating androgyny in his writing, Shakespeare does not actively contribute to the promotion of gender equity, which Woolf aims to achieve through the exploration of androgyny. This study explores the complex interplay between Woolfian and Shakespearean androgyny manifesting the idea of gender equity, and their representation in Virginia Woolf's seminal work, *A Room of One's Own and Shakespeare's play, As You Like It*.

Delinquency and Retribution in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*

Anusree Banik

University of Dhaka

Henrik Ibsen's modern novel *A Doll's House* is a highly gendered text where the discrepancy in gender treatment is shown through the themes of delinquency and retribution. Researchers like Ishfaq Hussain Bhat, Saman Salah Hassan Balaky, Nafser Abdul, and Mosair Sulaiman want to establish *A Doll's House* as a feminist text but my argument is that Nora Helmer is not a feminist character and neither was she ever meant to be Ibsen. I applied Masculinization theory, Opportunity theory, Marginalization theory, and Chivalry theory to explore the inequality of treatment of Nora and Krogstad for forgery. I used psychoanalysis to dissect Nora's character and showed the gaps in her ego formation. I attributed Nora's delinquency to her absent mother and unhealthy enmeshment with her domineering father. My argument is Nora has recreated her relationship with her father with her husband Torvald Helmer because of unhealed childhood trauma and repetition compulsion. My research is holistic in the sense that it also focuses on the side characters as well as the main characters. I discussed how Christina Linde and Nils Krogstad get their retribution just like Nora and Helmer. I further argued the separation between the Helmer couple is not an ending but a beckoning for self-transformation as the play ends in "Miracles of Miracles" on a Christmas night.

Against Assimilations: Literature as a Tool of Retaining and Reclaiming Trans and Gender Diverse Identity in Bangladesh

Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Literature is history. For marginalised communities in particular, often met with the threat of violence and erasure, oral lore and written documentation become the primary, if not the only means of holding on to history that would otherwise be long lost, and thus forgotten. In Bangladesh, where the realm and spectra of gender identity now face contradictions between the liberal and illiberal, as well as the local and the western, the history that has till date been preserved through art, culture, and literature become a vital lifeline providing insight into one of the region's most diverse communities. Yet another point of contention that further emphasizes the need to retain documentation of one's own history is the encroachment of state and corporate interests, which champion the "integration" of diverse communities into mainstream society as the pinnacle of progressive empowerment. This paper thus takes an anti-assimilationist approach to examining and analysing examples of queer Bangladeshi literature as a mode of dissidence and resistance against nationalist, corporate, and cisheteronormative hegemonies and their agendas which are rife with respectability politics and conceptions of "model minorities". Close examination and comparison with the literature of earlier periods and from beyond the border will further reveal how the conceptualisation of non-binary gender identity in Bangladesh encompasses not only the dynamics of queer genders pitted against cisheteropatriarchal norms, but also class relations, colonial history, and the effects of globalisation.



Academic and Cultural team winners at the 8th Conference

PAST CONFERENCES

8th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition

FACETS AND FACES OF CONFLICT

October 20-21, 2022

Number of Participating Universities: 17

Number of Academic Presentations: 15

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 9

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p> <p>Runner Up: Mehnaz S Tisha Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST)</p>	<p>Winner: East West University</p> <p>Joint Runners Up: University of Dhaka University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p>

Chief Guest

Ambassador Md. Nazmul Quaunine

Judges

Academic Session

Dr. Mohammed Shamsul Hoque, Professor, Dept. of English, Daffodil International University

Ms. Rabita Rahman, Lecturer, Institute of Modern Languages, Jagannath University

Cultural Competition

Mr. Abdus Selim, Associate Professor, Dept. of English Language-Literature, Central Women's University

Dr. Mohammad Israfil, Professor, Dept. of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka

7th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition Fifty Years of Bangladesh's Independence: Language, Literature, Culture

December 30-31, 2021

Number of Participating Universities: 19

Number of Academic Presentations: 17

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 8

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: Tasnim Naz & K.M. Arefin (Joint) Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)</p> <p>Runner Up: Mehnaz S Tisha Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST)</p>	<p>Winner: Stamford University Bangladesh</p> <p>Runner Up: Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)</p>

Chief Guest

Ms. Ameenah Ahmed, Member, ULAB Board of Trustees

Mr. Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Judges

Academic Session

Dr. Razia Sultana Khan, Professor, Dept. of English and Modern Languages, IUB

Ms. Rabita Rahman, Lecturer, IML, Jagannath University

Cultural Competition

Prof. Shafi Ahmed, Formerly of Dept. of English, Jahangirnagar University

Dr. Fahmida Akhter, Professor, Dept. of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University



6th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition Of Nation and Narration

September 3-4, 2020 (Online)

Number of Participating Universities: 8

Number of Academic Presenters: 9

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 5

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: Solika Akhter, University of Dhaka</p> <p>Runner Up: Sabrina Momtaz, Jahangirnagar University</p>	<p>Winner: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p> <p>Runner Up: University of Dhaka</p>

Chief Guest

Ms. Ameenah Ahmed. Member, ULAB Board of Trustees

Judges

Academic Session

Dr. Ahrar Ahmed, Professor Emeritus, Black Hills State University, USA and Director General, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation

Dr. Sharmistha Chatterjee, Associate Professor of English, Aliah University, Kolkata

Cultural Competition

Ms. Luva Nahid Choudhury, Director General, Bengal Foundation and Director-Administration, Bengal Institute for Architecture

Mr. Masum Reza, Playwright and Director

5th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition The Romantic and The Gothic

April 18-19, 2019

Number of Participating Universities: 15

Number of Academic Presenters: 26

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 5

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: Shamael Mortuza University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p> <p>Runner Up: Mairuna Farhin BRAC University</p>	<p>Winner: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p> <p>Runner Up: University of Asia Pacific</p>

Chief Guest

Mr. Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, Bangladesh Shlipakala Academy

Judges

Academic Session

Dr. Chidananda Bhattacharya, Professor and Head of Department of English, Rabindra Bharati University, India

Professor Abdus Selim, Chairperson, Department of Language-Literature, Central Women's University, Dhaka

Cultural Competition

Dr. Chidananda Bhattacharya, Professor and Head of Department of English, Rabindra Bharati University, India

Dr. Kirsten Hackenbroch, Director, Goethe-Institut, Dhaka

Ziaul Karim, Head of Brand & Communication, Eastern Bank Ltd.



4th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition 200 YEARS OF THE BRONTËS

April 21-22, 2018

Number of Participating Universities: 13

Number of Academic Presenters: 22

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 7

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman, BRAC University</p> <p>Runner Up: Jacklin Bose, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p>	<p>Winner: Dhaka University</p> <p>Runner Up: University of Asia Pacific</p>

Chief Guest

Ms. Faye Nicholls

Teaching Centre Manager, British Council, Bangladesh

Judges

Academic Session

Professor Dr. Razia Sultana Khan, Department of English, Independent University, Bangladesh

Professor Kamaluddin Ahmed, Department of English, Chittagong University

Professor Kashinath Roy, Department of English, Eastern University

Cultural Competition

Ms. Bonna Mirza, Media Personality

Mr. Ataur Rahman, Media Personality

Ms. Afsana Mimi, Media Personality



3rd Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition 200 YEARS OF JANE AUSTEN

April 21-22, 2017

Number of Participating Universities: 14

Number of Academic Presenters: 28

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 5

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: Afia Mursheeda East West University</p> <p>Runner Up: S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman Independent University, Bangladesh</p>	<p>Winner: Dhaka University</p> <p>Runner Up: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p>

Chief Guest

Opening Ceremony

Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Professor Emeritus, Department of English, University of Dhaka

Closing Ceremony

Ms. Barbara Wickham, Country Director, British Council, Dhaka

Judges

Academic Session

Professor Kamaluddin Ahmed, Department of English, Chittagong University

Professor Fakrul Alam, Department of English, University of Dhaka

Professor Mobasshera Khanom, Dean (in charge), School of Undergraduate Studies, National University

Cultural Competition

Ms. Suborna Mustafa, Media Personality

Professor Sudip Chakroborty, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka

2nd Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition SHAKESPEARE: THEN AND NOW

April 21, 2016

Number of Participating Universities: 10

Number of Academic Presenters: 20

Number of Cultural Competition Participants: 6

Academic Papers	Cultural Competition
<p>Winner: Nusrat Tajkia, Jahangirnagar University</p> <p>1st Runner Up: Sabah Tasnia Rowshon and Upoma Sanyal, East West University</p> <p>2nd Runner Up: Tani Deepavali Newaz, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)</p>	<p>Joint Winners: East West University North South University</p>

Chief Guests

Opening Ceremony

Mr. George Mesthos, Cultural Affairs Officer, The American Center, Dhaka

Closing Ceremony

Ms. Barbara Wickham, Country Director, British Council, Dhaka

Judges

Academic Session

Professor Nurul Islam, Department of English, Eastern University

Professor Shaheen Kabir, Department of English, State University of Bangladesh

Cultural Competition

Ms. Sara Zaker, Media Personality

Ms. Rubana Huq, MD, Mohammadi Group

1st DEH Inter-University Students' Conference

April 30, 2015

Number of Participating Universities: 10

Number of Academic Presenters: 16

Academic Papers	
Winner: Rumana Fouzia Choudhury North South University	Runner Up: Kaniz Fatema Dhaka University

Special Guest

George Mesthos, Cultural Affairs Officer, The American Center, Dhaka

Judges

Professor Dr. Niaz Zaman, Department of English, Independent University, Bangladesh

Professor Dr. Razia Sultana Khan, Department of English, Independent University, Bangladesh

Mr. Shahnoor Wahid, The Daily Star



Dhaka University performing at the Shakespeare Conference

9th DEH Inter-University Student Conference Schedule

Gender: the Binary and Beyond

Academic Presentations

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Registration Begins (8:30 – 9:00 AM)		
<p>INAUGURATION: ART EXHIBITION (9:00 AM) Address by: Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Dept. of English and Humanities Address by: Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities Address by: Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Professor & Special Advisor (BOT) Address and Inauguration by: Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB</p>		
<p>INAUGURATION: ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (9:15 AM) Address by: Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Dept. of English and Humanities Address by: Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities Address by: Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB Inauguration by: Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB</p>		
Presentations Begin (9:30 – 11:00 AM)		
Presenter	Institution	Paper Title
Afia Ujma	American International University Bangladesh	"Whipping Girl", by Julia Serano; A Provocative Exploration of Gender Norms and The Boundaries of Gender Identity
Robita Tarofder & Bipploby Guha Tuktuki	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University	Challenging the Gender Binary: Resistance of Ben in the Light of Judith Butler's "Gender Performativity"
Md. Mahabubur Rahman Badhon & Sunjida Hasan	Bangladesh Army University of Engineering & Technology University	Subverting Gender Roles in Dickens' Great Expectations through the Lens of Feminism
Nishat Anjum Risa & Neelanti Nawsheen	Bangladesh University of Professionals	Woman in Disguise of Physique and Clothing: Analysis of Gender Binary in Tagore's <i>Chitrangada</i> and Ebershoff's <i>The Danish Girl</i>

Raina Isabela	BRAC University	Denaturalized Genders in Pajtim Statovci's "Crossing": Parody of Becoming and Performance
Sanjida Yesmin	Central Women's University	Gender As a Malleable Form of Expression: An Exploration of She Who Became the Sun and Gender Euphoria
TEA BREAK (11:00 – 11:15 AM)		
Marzana Binte Kamal	Eastern University	Impact of Disability on the formation of Identity: A Case Study of Laura Wingfield
Kashfia Israt	Green University of Bangladesh	Gender Deconstruction in Ursula K. Le Guin's Gethenian Society
Antara Ibnat Audhaya	Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka	Gendered Language in Modern Advertisements in Bangladesh: An Investigation
Sumaya Binte Delwar & Nishat Tasnim Kabbo	International University of Business Agriculture and Technology	Representation of Women in Myths: A Feminist Study of <i>Mahabharata and Ramayana</i>
Ahmed Abdullah Bin Farooqi Rayhan	Jahangirnagar University	Negotiated Internalized Sexism: Exploring the Interplay of Disability and Gender Performance in Somen Chanda's "Ondho Sribilasher Onek Diner Ekdin"
Marzia Sultana & Md. Zihad Hasan	Khulna University	Power Dynamics, Violence, and Resistance in Khaled Hosseini's <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>
Juiena Khatun	Manarat International University	The Diverse Ideas of Human Progress in Romantic Poetry
LUNCH BREAK (1:00 – 2:00 PM)		
Rohama Chowdhury	Metropolitan University	Agony and Surviving Battle of Women in Mahasweta Devi's Breast Stories and Nilima Ibrahim's <i>Aami Birangana Balchi</i>
Shehreen Islam	North South University	Re-Examining the Colonial History of the Indian Film Industry: An Exploration of White- Coded Women in Indian Spaces

Anindita Haque Ananya	Premier University	"The Help and Beyond: Investigating the Lingering Effects of Historical Racism on Current Racial Dynamics among Women"
Rifat Tahsin Shoily & Sumaiya Meem	Stamford University Bangladesh	Reimagining Gender Paradigms Through the Lenses of Begum Rokeya's Sultana's Dream and Greta Gerwig's "Barbie"
Hadia Sultana & Mahmuda Khanam	University of Chittagong	Woolfian Androgyny and Gender Equity in 'A Room of One's Own': Reimagining Shakespearean Femininity
Anusree Banik	University of Dhaka	Delinquency and Retribution in Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House
Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury	University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh	Against Assimilations: Literature as a Tool of Retaining and Reclaiming Trans and Gender Diverse Identity in Bangladesh
JUDGES' REMARKS (4:00 - 4:15 PM)		
End of Day One (4:30 PM)		

Cultural Competition
Friday, October 20, 2023

Registration Begins (10:00 AM)	
Welcome Remarks (11:00 – 11.15 AM)	
Institution and Performance Title	List of Performers
American International University of Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shoraz Islam Himel• Sahedul Alam Rimon• Shadman Sakib• Asma Amrin• Kulsum Khalid Nishat• Yasin Kadir Al Yakin
Eastern University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Umme Habiba• Ramisa Rahman• Md. Shohanur Rahman Hridoy• Ploto Chakma• Sadab Muhammad• Ishrat Jahan
North South University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mahjabin Ali• Lubaba Sadat• Mashuk Rabbani• Rafath Awsaf• Mohammed Rezwan Kabir• Mounita Sarker Dharitry• Anindo Anjum Turzo• Gazi Shazidur Rahman• Tabassum Mehzabin• Kishore Dhar

<p>Stamford University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoily Mony • Sayeda Shirajum Munira • Nusrat Zahan Satabdi • Md. Mashakur Ruf Mueid • Irina La Shafina • Samia Alam Maha • Md. Rakibul Islam Shanto • Sabuj Khan • Roksana Khondaker Rim
<p>LUNCH (12.30 – 2.00 PM)</p>	
<p>University of Chittagong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umme Habiba Mayesha • Taniya Sultana • Sadiya Siddiquee Pritom • Arnab Sarker Dipta • Arman Hossen Sajib • Masfikul Hossain Nuhash • Anindita Saha
<p>University of Dhaka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rusafa Nafsaniat • Tashrifa Fairuz • Ibrahim Khalil • Lamia Sultana • Tasfia Huda • G. M. Atique Anjum • Anik Siddique • Tabita Binte Rafique • Mostaq Owadud

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

- Shahriyer Hossain Shetu
- Quazi Farhina Hassan
- Nusrat Jahan Esa
- Alen Henry Costa
- Tasfiyah Saba
- Afrida Lubaba Khan
- Ayesha Siddika
- Mahjabeen Hassan
- Md. Sorif Hossain
- Aiman Swaad Ahmad

TEA BREAK (2.50 – 3.15 PM)

**Vote of Thanks
Prize-Giving and Closing Ceremony
(3.15 – 4.15 PM)**

Acknowledgments

Conference Convener

Arifa Ghani Rahman

Advisors

Prof. Kaiser Haq, PhD

Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, PhD

Conference Coordinators

Sheikh Nahiyana and Anika Tahsin

Committee Members

Nadia Rahman

Muntasir Mamun

Al Mahmud Rumman

Mehek Chowdhury

Nusrat Tajkia

Faculty Support

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Dr. Abu Mohammad Rafi Saleh

Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hasan

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Tithi Das

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Oriha Shouptik

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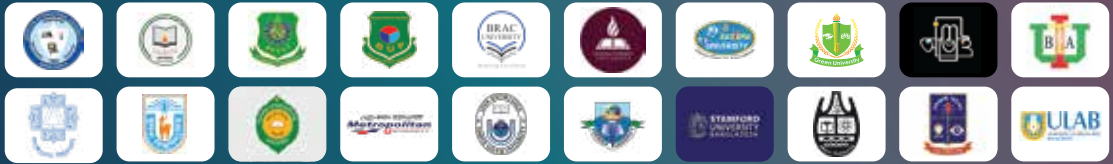
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Md. Roknuzzaman

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